

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EURE-00 /059 W

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P R 311822Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1594

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: MARIL SOARES SPEAKS ON POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: LISBON 487

SUMMARY: SPEAKING TO SOCIALIST PARTY RALLY, MARIO SOARES CALLS FOR REINFORCED UNITY AMONG PARTIES OF GOVERNING COALITION IN ORDER TO AVERT "TRAGEDY." END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN HOUR ANA A HALF EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH AT SOCIALIST PARTY RALLY IN SEIXAL, MARIO SOARES CALLED FOR BOTH REINFORCED UNITY WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY WITHIN THE GOVERNING COALITION AND ACCUSED THE COMMUNISTS OF PROVOCATIONS. IN APPARENT REPLY TO EARLIER ACCUSATIONS BY COPCON OPERATIONAL COMMANDER OTELO SARVAIA DE CARVALHO THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES

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ARE NOT RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS, (REFTEL), SOARES

EMPHASIZED THAT ONLY UNITY OF PARTIES IN THE COALITION CAN AVERT WHAT OTHERWISE SEEMS AN "INEVITABLE TRAGEDY". HE NOTED THAT THE SOCIALIST ARE WILLING TO OVERLOOK NUMEROUS SLANDERS BY THE COMMUNISTS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENTAL UNITY.

2. SOARES SAID THAT THE COMMUNISTS CALLING A MASS MEETING FOR JANUARY 31, A DATE ALREADY ANNOUNCED BY THE SOCIALISTS FOR A RALLY, WAS A PRETEXT IN ORDER TO FORCE THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) TO CANCEL BOTH MEETINGS. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO LACK OF USUALLY ALL-PERVASIVE COMMUNIST POSTERS CALLING FOR JANUARY 31 RALLY AS EVIDENCE THAT THEY NOT SERIOUS IN THEIR INTENT TO HOLD ANNOUNCED RALLY.

3. RESPONDING TO ALLEGED COMMUNIST CLAIMS THAT SOCIALISTS ARE PROVOKING AFM, SOARES RESPONDED THAT SOCIALISTS SUPPORT AFM BUT OTHERS (COMMUNISTS) ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN "BUTTERING-UP AFM NIGHT AND DAY".

4. SPEAKING ABOUT THE ELECTIONS, SOARES NOTED THAT DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE BUILT IN PORTUGAL WITHOUT THE COMMUNIST PARTY AS LONG AS IT HAS ITS PRESENT SUPPORT AMONG THE WORKING CLASSES. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS REALITY, HE HAS ALWAYS MADE PRESENCE OF A COMMUNIST A PRECONDITION FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT.

5. IN CLOSING, SOARES REPEATED HIS APPEAL FOR GOVERNMENTAL UNITY BASED ON UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TWO WORKING CLASS PARTIES, SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS. HE CALLED FOR TELEVISED DEBATE AMONG LEADERS OF COALITION PARTIES AND AFM IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM OF THEIR COMMON GOALS.

6. COMMENT: SOARES CONTRADICTIONARY SPEECH - ATTACKING COMMUNISTS WHILE DEFENDING THEIR PRESENCE IN COALITION CABINET - REFLECTS THE DILEMMA AND THE DIVISIONS WITHIN HIS SOCIALIST PARTY. TO MAINTAIN LEFT-WING PARTY IMAGE, HE FEELS HE MUST PAY LIP SERVICE TO THE HOARY CLICHE OF "PAS D'ENNEMIS A GAUCHE". AT SAME TIME, HE KNOWS WHAT CUNHAL IS UP TO AND HOPES TO EXPOSE HIM PUBLICLY; HENCE CALL FOR TV DEBATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, SPEECHES, PARTY MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00589
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750037-0125
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975013/aaaaacfw.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 487
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <30 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARIL SOARES SPEAKS ON POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PO, (SOARES, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006